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### 31 NATIONAL MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATING GROUP (NMAC) ORGANIZATION

Reference the **National Mobilization Guide**.

### 32 MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATING GROUPS (MAC)

As numbers of wildland fires, complex incidents, and the involvement or impact on agencies increases, it may become necessary to expand day-to-day coordination and management organizations to ensure efficient and effective use of critical personnel and equipment. This is not an expansion of the Incident Command System (ICS) but rather a group to coordinate and manage incident support activities.

The Northern Rockies Coordinator will implement and/or communicate the approved strategy.

#### 32.1 NORTHERN ROCKIES MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATING GROUP

The Northern Rockies Area Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NRCG) will be comprised of the following:

Agency	Agency Fire Chief Position
Bureau of Indian Affairs	Rocky Mountain and/or Pacific Northwest Region FMO
Bureau of Land Management	State FMO
Forest Service	Director, FA&A
Idaho Department of Lands	Bureau Chief, Fire & Aviation Mgmt.
Montana Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation	Chief, Fire & Aviation Management Bureau
National Park Service	Regional FMO
North Dakota State	ND Forest Service Fire Coordinator
Montana Disaster & Emergency Services	Administrator
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Regional Fire Mgmt. Coordinator
Montana County Firewardens Association	Representative
Montana Fire Chiefs Association	Representative

These individuals have delegated authority from their respective agency administrator to perform the same functions as national level MAC (NMAC), and in addition, to reallocate critical resources when necessary.

### 33 INCIDENT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

#### NR INCIDENT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION (ISO)

The Northern Rockies Coordinator is responsible for expanding operations as wildfire activity increases. The involved offices will be notified when ISO positions are identified and filled as needed. During initial buildup, one person may be assigned two or more jobs. The Northern Rockies Coordinator will keep field units informed as operations expand and when a MAC and ISO is implemented.

For additional details, refer to Appendix 2 of the Northern Rockies Multi-Agency Coordinating Group Operating Handbook.

Each unit should prepare a plan to meet the increased demand for support staff to meet increased activity, with positions and assignments identified.

### **LOCAL INCIDENT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION**

When a local unit has an unusual number of fires burning simultaneously, or when large fires have depleted firefighting resources, there may be the need for a high degree of coordination to establish priorities that exceeds the capabilities of the normal organization. This local ISO generally is a lateral expansion of the normal fire organization and not intended to impose additional layers of supervision.

## **34 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DISPATCH CENTERS**

These definitions, roles and responsibilities are largely from the 1985 interagency study of the dispatch/coordination system. Some additions have been made to the roles and responsibilities to reflect the situation in the Northern Rockies Geographic Area.

### **34.1 INITIAL ATTACK DISPATCH CENTER (IAC)**

An IAC is an office with the authority and responsibility to assign resources to an incident. Often it is co-located with a Zone Dispatch Center. The IAC may have single agency responsibility, may be co-located with one or more agencies, or may be totally interagency integrated. An IAC has responsibility for initial and extended attack at the National Forest, BLM District, National Park, BIA Agency, Fish and Wildlife Refuge, State of Montana Area/Unit Office, State of Idaho Area Office and local government level or any combination of these units. An IAC requests support from a Zone Dispatch Center when resources on a unit are unavailable or exhausted. An IAC may perform any or all of the following functions.

- A. Dispatch resources to initial and extended attack wildland fires and other incidents in a designated response area in accordance with established guidelines and local knowledge.
- B. Process and fill resource orders for incidents within an initial attack response area. Provide for expanding the dispatch organization to handle increased workload due to escaped wildland fire(s) or other circumstances.
- C. Flight follow all aircraft within a response area.
- D. Collect and distribute weather information, forecasts, fire behavior information, NFDRS indices, and RAWS station data for all reporting stations within the response area.
- E. Coordinate emergencies, search and rescue operations and law enforcement activities involving local government agencies.

- F. Monitor local preparedness levels and coordinate resource availability accordingly.
- G. Coordinate detection operations.
- H. Ensure completion of required intelligence and forward information through appropriate channels to Dispatch Centers.
- I. Evaluate incident complexity and ensure an appropriate level IC is assigned.
- J. Ensure incident personnel receive a timely briefing of wildland fire weather, wildland fire behavior, NFDRS indices, resource availability and other resources assigned.
- K. Ensure a communication link with incidents is established and understood.

### **34.2 ZONE DISPATCH CENTER (ZDC)**

An office with the authority and responsibility to assign resources to an incident, a ZDC has responsibility for incident support at the National Forest, BLM District, National Park, BIA Agency, FWS Refuge or State Land Office and local government level, or any combination of these units. It may be co-located with an Initial Attack Dispatch Center. A ZDC requests support from a Geographic Area Coordination Center when resources are unavailable or exhausted. A ZDC may be co-located with one or more agencies, or may be totally interagency integrated. A ZDC may perform any or all of the following functions.

- A. Move resources within their sphere of influence to incidents.
- B. Request resources and respond to resource requests from adjacent Dispatch Centers within agreed guidelines and agreements.
- C. Preposition resources within area.
- D. Request resources from the Geographic Area Coordination Center.
- E. Respond to resource requests from the Geographic Area Coordination Center.
- F. Ensure completion and forward through appropriate channels, required intelligence reports and resource status. (ICS-209, Daily Situation Report, NFDRS information, Fire Reports, etc.)
- G. Implement local and area Multi-Agency Coordinating Group priorities.
- H. Use National Fire Danger Rating System to determine fire danger.

- I. Provide 24-hour dispatch and coordination services in an expanded dispatch organization as needed.
- J. Develop a local mobilization guide that supplements the Geographic Area Mobilization Guide.
- K. Prepare preparedness plans and publish in local mobilization guide.
- L. Prepare a dispatch center standard operations guide to ensure office standards.
- M. Establish notification procedures for emergency accident responses.
- N. Evaluate current and predicted fire weather, occurrence, resource availability, etc. and implement actions to meet expected need.

### **34.3 GEOGRAPHIC AREA COORDINATION CENTER (GACC)**

The GACC is an office that coordinates the movement of resources between Zone Dispatch Centers within a Geographic Area. The GACC has responsibility for providing incident support to Zone Dispatch Centers from within its Geographic Area and to request support from the National Coordination Center when these resources are unavailable or exhausted. The GACC does not have initial attack responsibility. Roles and responsibilities are:

- A. Respond to resource requests from Zone Dispatch Centers within the Geographic Area.
- B. Request resources from National Coordination Center.
- C. Respond to resource requests from National Coordination Center.
- D. Coordinate movement of resources between Zone Dispatch Centers within Geographic Area.
- E. Ensure completion and forward to National Coordination Center requested intelligence reports and resource status (ICS-209, Daily Situation Report, NFDRS information, Fire Reports, etc.).
- F. Implement area and national Multi-Agency Coordinating Group priorities.
- G. Provide a prepared Geographic Area Mobilization Guide that supplements the National Mobilization Guide.
- H. Provide 24-hour dispatch and coordination services in an expanded dispatch organization as needed.

- I. Create a preparedness plan for the Geographic Area and publish it in the Geographic Area Mobilization Guide.
- J. Prepare a dispatch center standard operations guide to ensure office standards.
- K. Establish notification procedures for emergency accident responses.
- L. Evaluate current and predicted wildland fire weather, occurrence, resource availability, etc. and implement actions to meet expected need.

#### **34.4 NATIONAL INTERAGENCY COORDINATION CENTER (NICC)**

The NICC is an office that coordinates the movement of resources between Geographic Area Coordination Centers in the United States. The NICC has responsibility for providing incident support to Geographic Area Coordination Centers from other Geographic Area Coordination Centers and/or other federal agencies; e.g., military. Roles and responsibilities are:

- A. Responds to resource request from Geographic Area Coordination Centers.
- B. Coordinates movement of resources between Geographic Area Coordination Centers.
- C. Coordinates support for international requests.
- D. Coordinates support requests for large air transport.
- E. Coordinates support requests for Call-When-Needed Type I and Type II helicopters.
- F. Provides military support to Geographic Area Coordination Centers.
- G. Coordinates Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS) requests.
- H. Coordinates infrared aircraft missions.
- I. Coordinates support requests for the National Interagency Radio Support Cache.
- J. Disseminates wildland fire information to the Washington Office and field offices.
- K. Implements National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group priorities.